

THE GENUS *UROPLATA*, TYPE-SPECIES AND AUTHORSHIP
(COLEOPTERA: CHRYSOMELIDAE)

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Abstract.—The name *Uroplata* was validated in the Dejean Catalogue by citation of four species that were previously described. Authorship of *Uroplata* belongs to Chevrolat; errors in the literature have resulted in four other persons being attributed with authorship of the genus. *Uroplata mucronata* (Olivier) is designated as the type-species. Most of the 88 species in the genus occur in South America: one species has been introduced into Hawaii and Australia to aid in control of lantana.

I have received a request from a correspondent for the type-species of *Uroplata*. This appears to be a simple matter, but it is not. Uhmman, in his monumental catalogue of the world Hispinae (1957: 122), gave the author of *Uroplata* as "Chevrolat, 1837," and the type-species as *Uroplata vicina* Guérin-Méneville (1844: 274). My examination of "Chevrolat, 1837" (Dejean, 1837a: 365) has shown that four of the species listed were validated previous to publication of the Dejean catalogue. Therefore, *Uroplata* was validated by Dejean (1837a) because that citation constituted an indication within the meaning of Article 12 of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, 1964) and because the circumstances fulfilled the requirements of Article 16a(v) which defines an indication as ". . . the citation, in combination with a new genus-group name, of one or more available specific names; . . ."

In the Dejean catalogue (1837a: 365) there were 49 species names (most were *nomina nuda*) listed under *Uroplata* Chevrolat, with nine of them presented as synonyms. The four species names that were validated previous to the catalogue were *hastata* Fabricius (1801: 62), now in *Stethispa*; *mucronata* Olivier (1808: 765), now in *Uroplata*; *quadrata* Fabricius (1801: 65), now in *Baliosus*; and *inaequalis* Weber (1801: 65), now in *Anoplitis*. According to Article 69a of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*, one of the originally included nominal species must be the type-

species. Since *Uroplata vicina* Guérin-Ménéville does not fulfill that requirement, I hereby designate *U. mucronata* (Olivier) as type-species of *Uroplata*. This action will cause no change in the currently accepted zoological application of *Uroplata*.

No less than five different workers have been, at one time or another, credited with authorship of *Uroplata*. Agassiz (1846: 168) attributed authorship to "Chevrolat, 1834." In the other great catalogues of zoological names, Scudder (1882: 333) also gave "Chevrolat, 1834" as author, but Neave (1940: 620) indicated that in the "Dejean 1835" citation *Uroplata* was a *nomen nudum*, and gave authorship to Guérin-Ménéville (1844: 274). Besides Uhmman (1957), another who gave Chevrolat as author was Chapuis (1875: 319). Guérin-Ménéville was again given as author by Baly (1885-86: 92). Weise (1911a: 46) gave Baly (1864: 335) as author of *Uroplata*, as did also Weise (1910: 146), Weise (1911b: 32), Blatchley (1924: 44), Blackwelder (1946: 729), Monros and Viana (1947: 279), and Uhmman (1947: 119). Maulik (1930: 48) and Uhmman (1937: 451) gave the author as Chapuis, 1875. Finally, Arnett (1968: 941) gave "Dejean, 1835," as author.

The confusion in the literature concerning the date of publication of *Uroplata* in the Dejean catalogue was caused by the issuance of the catalogue in parts. The correct date is 1837.

The publication by Dejean of *Uroplata* and its list of species appeared twice in the same year in the Dejean catalogue, and in identical versions. One was in the second edition (not so designated on the title page; 1837a: 365) and the other in the third edition (so designated on the title page; 1837b: 389). The dates of publication of the various parts of the Dejean catalogue, along with other important data, are discussed in an article by Barber and Bridwell (1940). They noted that Dejean, in the introduction to his third edition of the catalogue, gave responsibility to Chevrolat for genera proposed out of the old genera *Hispa*, *Cassida*, *Galeruca*, *Altica*, *Chrysomela*, *Colaspis*, *Eumolpus*, *Clytra*, *Cryptocephalus*, etc., and cited him as author in the catalogue. Barber and Bridwell therefore accepted Chevrolat as author of many Chrysomelidae genera in the Dejean catalogue, and I attribute authorship of *Uroplata* to Chevrolat on this basis.

The genus *Uroplata* in 1970 contained 88 species, all of which are native to the Americas, with most occurring in South America. These beetles are leafminers, and their most frequent hosts are plants of the genera *Lantana*, *Lippia*, *Verbena*, *Vernonia*, and *Pithecoctenium*. These are most often shrubs, herbs, or vines. The beetles also feed on plants of at least 19 other genera. One Brazilian species, *U. girardi* Pic, was released on Kauai, Hawaii, in 1965 to aid in control of *Lantana camara* L. cv. *Aculeata*; this beetle has also been established in Australia.

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